



# water works

The Plainview Water District Newsletter

## Plainview Water District Announces Michael Gelé as Acting Superintendent

**P**lainview Water Commissioners Joel Kessler, Edward Shulroff and Kevin Langberg are proud to announce that veteran employee Michael Gelé has been named Acting Superintendent of the Plainview Water District. Mr. Gelé replaces former Superintendent Paul Granger, who has accepted a job in the private sector.

A valued employee since 1992, Mr. Gelé previously served as a water plant operator for the District, responsible for regular servicing of water distribution and supply facilities. Throughout his years of service to the Plainview Water District, Mr. Gelé also attended college classes at night, earning a bachelor's degree



in environmental science in 2003.

“Mike Gelé has consistently been a model employee and one of our most reliable workers,” said Board of Commissioners Chairman Joel Kessler. “His background in environmental matters and expert knowledge in the day-to-day operations of the Plainview Water District make him an ideal choice for this position. Most importantly, he shares our commitment to providing our customers with the cleanest, best-tasting water on

Long Island.”

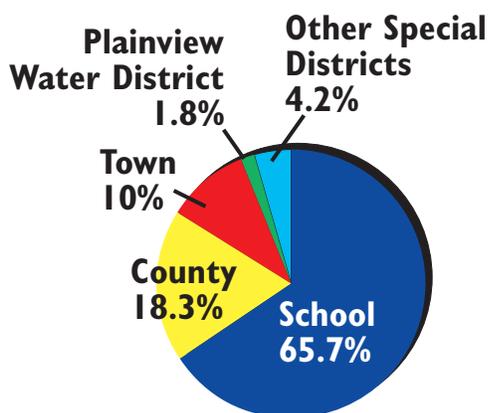
As Acting Superintendent, Michael Gelé will oversee the operation of the Water District’s 12 supply wells and manage a staff of 15.

## Plainview Water District Provides Quality Service at Affordable Prices

**W**hile the costs of other utilities continue to climb year after year, Plainview Water District accounts for the lowest portion of your tax bill compared with other municipal services. Our residents’ average monthly water bill is only about \$33, significantly lower than most homeowners’ costs for telephone, cable, internet service, heat or electricity. Most importantly, all tax revenues for Plainview Water

District are strictly local and used exclusively for the protection of the water supply and improved services for the people of Plainview and Old Bethpage.

### Average Homeowner's Tax Bill



Plainview Water District personnel are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to ensure that safe drinking water is available to the public at all times. Our dedicated and knowledgeable water servicers safeguard against any possible contaminations, and are prepared to repair water main breaks at a moment’s notice.

“We are extremely proud of the service we provide,” Plainview Water District Board of Commissioners

Chairman Joel Kessler commented, “and we will continue to explore ways to minimize the cost to our customers.”

# Nassau Community College Environmental Science Students Take a Tour of the Plainview Water District

For years, Plainview resident and Nassau Community College Professor Agnes Kadar has accompanied her classes on trips to the Plainview Water District. On a recent trip, students from Nassau Community College visited the Water District for a closer look at the inner workings of our water supply. Plainview Water District employees taught students about the source, quality and quantity of our water supply and its place in the environment.

Plainview Water District Commissioner Kevin Langberg greeted the students and Professor Kadar. Michael Gelé, Plainview Water District's Acting Superintendent, then took the students on a tour of the Water District's newly constructed Granular

Activated Carbon (GAC) filter, which is used to filter out organic contaminants from the drinking water. They also were taken on a tour of Plant 4.

"The Plainview Water District is always pleased to assist in helping students understand the important role that water plays in the environment. By seeing what our employees do to ensure a safe and healthy drinking water supply, students are given the chance to learn how our water system works," said Board of Commissioners Chairman Joel

Kessler. The Commissioners and staff wish these students good luck, and look forward to future visits from Professor Kadar's classes.



**Nassau Community College students visiting the Plainview Water District.**

## Employee Spotlight

Plainview Water District Commissioners Joel Kessler, Edward Shulroff and Kevin Langberg are proud to highlight the contributions of multi-keyboard operator Cindy Schorr, who has been a valued employee of the Plainview Water District for 18 years. Working out of the main offices on Manetto Hill Road, she is responsible for customer service, preparing work orders, entering meter changes, customer billing, assisting with the annual election and writing letters. Her greatest satisfaction comes from dealing with the residents of

Plainview and Old Bethpage when they contact the Plainview Water District for assistance. A resident of Plainview, Cindy spends her free time swimming, reading, gardening and learning new programs on her computer.

"The Water District is a complex operation, but for years Cindy has helped us to keep things running smoothly," stated Board of Commissioners Chairman Joel Kessler. "She is a dedicated and efficient worker, and sets a fine example for her colleagues both in the office and in the field."



**P**lainview Water Commissioners Joel Kessler, Edward Shulroff and Kevin Langberg would like to remind residents of some of the many reasons tap water is simply the best option around.

**Tap water is more thoroughly tested than bottled water.** Because tap water is regulated by the EPA, unlike FDA-regulated bottled water, tap water has no traces of E. coli or fecal coliform bacteria, while bottled water may contain a certain level of bacteria. Tap water testing results must be reported to state and federal officials; bottled water has no such requirements. Most importantly, tap water contains essential nutrients like calcium and iron, which are removed from bottled water by filtration.

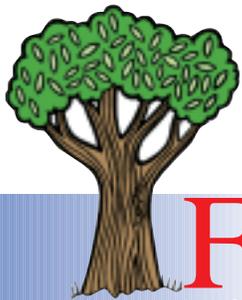


**Thinking About  
Buying Bottled Water?  
Think Again...**

and contributing to global warming. Additionally, several studies have shown that only about 12 to 14 percent of single-serving water bottles were recycled nationwide in recent years.

**Tap water is significantly cheaper than bottled water.** Bottled water can cost up to 1,000 times more than the higher-quality product produced by the Plainview Water District. On average, the recommended eight glasses of water will cost you approximately \$233.60 per year. Those same eight glasses from your tap will cost you approximately **28 cents** a year — an annual savings of \$233.32 for each person in your household!

**Tap water is better for the environment than bottled water.** Most water brands are packaged in a plastic derived from crude oil, transported on diesel-burning trucks, or shipped in from exotic places like Fiji, generating greenhouse gases



## Plainview Students and PWD Celebrate Arbor Day



**F**or nearly 80 years, the Plainview Water District has been committed to providing safe and reliable water to the people of Plainview and Old Bethpage. But the

District also takes very seriously its ongoing commitment to preserve our natural water supply and protect our local ecosystem. That is why Commissioners Joel Kessler, Edward Shulroff and Kevin Langberg recently invited a group of local Cub Scouts for a special tree planting at the Water District's main offices on Manetto Hill Road.

Third and fourth grade students from Cub Pack 423 in Plainview

joined Acting Superintendent Michael Gelé and his staff on Wednesday, October 17, to plant a series of trees that will contribute to the health of our environment and help

to make our water supply cleaner and safer for future generations.

“It is always a delight to work with the children because they truly understand how important it is to protect our natural resources,” said Board of Commissioners Chairman Joel Kessler. “We all have a role to play in ensuring the safety of our water supply for future generations, and no one shows more enthusiasm than these kids.”





# Winter Water Usage

## Tips on Conserving Hot Water

### During the Colder Months



**T**he cold months of winter are ahead of us, and although temperatures will decrease, household costs may increase significantly. Simply lowering hot water use can reduce these costs. Plainview Water District Board of Commissioners Chairman Joel Kessler explains, "High energy costs are one of the biggest household concerns each winter. What many people don't realize is that just by taking a few simple steps in reducing hot water usage, we can avoid some unnecessarily high bills." Some conservation tips include:

- Install devices that regulate and restrict water flow, such as faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads. Faucet aerators attach to a faucet and increase spray velocity and reduce splash. Low-flow showerheads can cut flow rates in half from over 6 gallons per minute (gpm) to about 3 gpm, are reasonably priced, and are not complicated to install.
- Instead of baths, which use the most hot water in a household, take showers. Showers taken with a low-

flow showerhead may only use one-third the hot water of a bath.

- On home appliances such as washing machines and dishwashers, use the lowest temperature settings available. On average, a load of clothes uses 32 gallons of hot water and an automatic dishwasher typically uses 14 gallons of hot water. Switching from hot water to cold water on these appliances will save 32 and 14 gallons of hot water, respectively. Also, operate these appliances when both contain full loads.
- Repair leaks in faucets and showers.

The simple steps listed above can prove very helpful in reducing the hot water usage of a household, and in turn reduce the amount of money spent on hot water. For more information on water conservation, please contact the Plainview Water District Customer Service Department at 516-931-6469.

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